

The Coast Guard has intercepted several boatloads this month with more than 240 Haitians on board and bound for Florida. Reports from Turks Caicos indicate that they have enlisted the help of the United States Coast Guard to stem the increased flow of Haitians to their shores. These are Haitians who have been mislead and told that they were being taken to either the Bahamas or the United States or that they could get into the United States via centers in Turks Caicos. With the Artistic government's recent announcement of their adamant opposition to negotiating another repatriation agreement with the United States, there are clearly some important issues to be dealt with in the coming months. Congress returns now to begin the budget cycle. As we are looking for ways to maximize the benefit of every tax dollar we spend, I believe that the President owes this Congress and Americans across the Nation some answers about where we stand in Haiti, where we are going and how much it is all going to cost before this episode is over and done. Most Americans agree our present Haitian policy is another waste of United States taxpayer's dollars.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I think that, before we begin our legislative business, we must pause, remember, and offer our prayers to those who faced the senseless and brutal bombing in Oklahoma. I believe we can agree that a safe, secure, and open nation is important to all of us.

As Americans, we must recognize how interdependent we are—young and old—black, white, yellow, and brown—rich and poor—we all mourn with our fellow citizens in Oklahoma.

And, we pray for those who were injured or died because of this tragedy, as well as for those—friends, families, and loved ones—who must live with it—and, for us, as a nation.

Tragedies such as this remind us of how vulnerable we are—how fleeting and precious life can be.

We are also reminded of the need, many of our citizens have, for direction—for strong, moral leadership.

If the Oklahoma bombing does nothing else, it should compel us to assume those roles for which we were elected—to legislate in the best interests of America—to lead in the best tradition of the Congress of the United States. Now, more than ever, we need forceful leadership—leadership that can put aside party and politics and put the people in front—leadership that can overlook minor differences and concentrate on major results.

It is easy to stand in the way. Many can do that. It is difficult to make a way. Few can do that.

But, I offer this challenge to my Democrat and Republican colleagues alike—each a leader in his or her own right—let the bickering end—let breakthroughs begin.

There are so many perils in this world—injury, disease, famine, nature's occasional vengeance, the unknowns and uncertainties of life, and the assurance of death.

One wonders why, given these natural hazards, any person would create further hazards of the kind that caused the harm, the death, the destruction and the pain of the Oklahoma bombing.

Consider this, however—to those who watch us on C-SPAN, when we are in session—we display attitudes that far too often fuel division and fight consensus.

To those who watch us on C-SPAN, our philosophy, our point of view, more often than not, seems to become paramount to concordance or compromise.

And, while no Member has the intent of promoting malice—to those who watch us on C-SPAN, at the very least, we seem to wink and nod at the very worst in relationships. We live in a time of much hope—and a time of great despair.

Hope—engendered by what we can be. Despair—engendered by what we are.

Let us lead by example.

When Nelson Mandela was freed from the jail that confined him by the jailer that kept him, he did not use the power he later secured to hurt him, instead he used the conditions that caused his incarceration as an example of what humankind could be.

Nelson Mandela invited his jailer to his inauguration—as a special guest.

As we begin our legislative business—let us lower the volume—let us eliminate the venom—let us stand for consensus—let us not forget those principles that made this a great nation, all are created equal, with certain inalienable rights and that among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—let us not forget Oklahoma.

A DARK CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the time this morning, and I in many ways endorse what the preceding speaker, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] had to say. I was listening with great interest this morning to my fellow newcomer, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], and indeed at the outset of her remarks I would endorse fully that no one, no one in this Chamber, would ever endorse the acts of violence,

the unspeakable acts against those in Oklahoma City.

History points a way for us, it compels us, it offers lessons, and at this juncture in human history, at this juncture in the history of this proud Republic, I believe it is important for all of us to remember the admonition of that great and good man, Dwight David Eisenhower, who led the most powerful army ever assembled in the free world against the most onerous and evil regime in human history. Eisenhower, when he stepped onto the beach at Normandy following the waves of invasion, noted that it was impossible to walk a step without stepping on dead or decaying human flesh, such was the magnitude of destruction there, and yet following the war's completion and the restoration of peace, when Dwight Eisenhower answered a clarion call to serve this Republic as its Chief Executive, he made some very valid points regarding political battles. To paraphrase Ike, he said, "Always believe the best of your political adversaries. Always assume that they, too, want what is best for the American people and yet move in a different direction under a different philosophy to bring about their desired results."

I think those words are incredibly important for us to remember as we again come into this Chamber, the site of so much of our history. Let us note once again that good people may agree to disagree. Let us not impugn the motives of those duly elected by their respective districts to offer a point of view as we move to achieve a consensus. But by the same token, and perhaps it is somewhat ironic because, after all, the political process is the vehicle which brings us here. Let us never confuse dissent with hatred. Let us never politicize such a tragic event as the one that occurred in Oklahoma City in hopes of increasing our number for either side of the aisle. Let us truly join together in debate that is, yes, oft times contentious, but always with the knowledge of the inherent wisdom of what Dwight Eisenhower said, that good people may disagree.

And I noted with some concern this morning the seeming implication that there was silence from this side, that there was an endorsement of violence, and, if I mistook the remarks, then I would stand corrected. But let us all avoid the temptation to politicize this dark chapter in American history, and let those who are working amidst the rubble in Oklahoma City to rebuild lives, to revitalize their community, let them stand as an example to the overwhelming goodness that is ours in this constitutional republic.

To the people of Oklahoma City and to the people of the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, I say, Let us rejoice in this process of representative democracy that allows us to peacefully state our differences.